(a) the total workforce of the country as per the census reports of 1981,1991 and 2001;

(b) the percentage of those not having assured engagement in works;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ratio of unemployment is higher than that of increase of population; and

(d) how Government propose to meet the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The total workforce of the country as per the census reports of 1981,1991 and 2001 is given below:

Census	Workforce (in million)
1981	250.79
1991	317.36
2001	401.93

(b) As per 2001 census, about 10.1 per cent of the labour force was seeking/ available for work but unable to get.

(c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per Registrar General of India and the last two survey reports of NSSO (based on usual status approach) unemployment grew at a faster rate (3.70 per cent per annum) than that of population growth (1.71 per cent) rate during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05.

(d) The projections made for Eleventh Five Year Plan indicate that 58 million employment opportunities (as per Current Daily Status approach) would be created in the Eleventh Plan period which exceed the projected addition to the labour force of about 45 million.

Insurance scheme for jobless persons

†589.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an employment or unemployment insurance scheme is in place in foreign countries particularly in America and England for the persons rendered jobless;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to implement an insurance scheme on the same lines in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Some countries have adopted such insurance schemes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) In UK, all unemployed job-seekers are eligible to receive unemployment allowance ranging from £ 34.60 to £ 57.45 a week depending upon age for a period up to 26 weeks provided they satisfy the qualifying conditions. In USA, employees of industry, commerce and non-profit organizations employing 4 or more employees as well as Local Government workers, Domestic and Farm workers are covered. The Unemployment Allowance is financed through Federal Tax as well as employers' contribution and is payable at the rate 50% of earnings upto 26 weeks subject to meeting the qualifying conditions.

(c) In order to provide social security to the employees covered under the scheme who lose their jobs due to closure of factories/establishments, retrenchment or permanent disability due to non-employment injury, the ESI Corporation, at its meeting held on 27.02.2005, approved a scheme of unemployment allowance. The scheme called, the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana, published in the Gazette of India on 26.03.2005, was introduced with effect from 01.04.2005.

Under the Scheme, employees who lose their employment due to closure of factories/establishments, retrenchment or permanent invalidity due to non-employment injury, after being insured for five or more years, are entitled to Unemployment Allowance in cash equal to 50% of their wage upto 6 months during his/her entire service. In addition, during the period for which a person is entitled to unemployment allowance, he and his family members are also entitled to medical care from ESI Dispensaries, Panel Clinics and ESI Hospitals.

(d) Does not arise.

Proceeding initiated by PF Commissioners

590. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many proceedings under Section 7-A of the Employees 'Provident Fund' (EPF) and MP Act are initiated by the Regional Provident Fund (PF) Commissioner, Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Surat during the last five years ending on 31st March, 2008;

(b) the details about various proceedings initiated in the cases of M/s. ONGC Mehsana and Ahmedabad Assets in the State of Gujarat; and

(c) the delay in taking action by the PF Commissioners against the defaulters who have failed to pay PF Contribution in the accounts of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The details of cases in which proceedings under Section 7A of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 have been conducted are as under.

Year	Ahmedabad	Rajkot	Surat
2003-04	196	197	79
2004-05	91	400	47
2005-06	192	156	186
2006-07	387	193	69
2007-08	278	269	416